

A FURTHER NOTE ON *CERCIS CANADENSIS* IN CONNECTICUT.—In 1923 the late G. E. Nichols reported the occurrence of redbud (*Cercis canadensis* L.) on West Rock, a trap ridge about 400 feet high situated on the outskirts of New Haven. The plants he reported were growing in a single clump consisting of “half a dozen good-sized individuals, from half an inch to nearly two inches in diameter and up to about a dozen feet in height, together with two or three smaller plants.” The entire group, Dr. Nichols stated, occupied an area of less than three feet in diameter. He concluded that the group likely originated through root suckering from a single plant.

Cercis canadensis is frequently planted as an ornamental, and since it had not been reported as occurring naturally northeast of New Jersey, Dr. Nichols at first assumed that these specimens came from a planted tree. Since West Rock Ridge is included in the New Haven Park system, this assumption seemed likely. Upon making inquiries of the superintendent of city parks, however, he was informed that no redbuds had ever been planted in the park. From the location of the station—“near the summit of a rocky ridge which has never been inhabited, and fifty feet from the nearest road, from which it is separated by a tangle of wood and thicket”—Dr. Nichols was certain that the plant was not introduced by human agencies. He concluded that these plants represented a northeastward extension in the known natural range of the species. This interpretation has apparently been accepted by subsequent workers (Hopkins 1942, Fernald 1950). In the eighth edition of Gray's Manual one finds “s. Ct. (local)” included in the natural range of *Cercis canadensis*. Aside from the West Rock station, there is apparently no other record of this species occurring naturally within the state.

In May of this year I revisited the area described by Dr. Nichols as the station for the redbud in Connecticut. A few hundred yards from the famous Judges' Cave and about 25 feet from the road is a clump of *Cercis*. The plants were in full bloom in mid-May and were readily seen from the road. The tallest plants in the clump are 12 feet in height and measure one and one-half inches in diameter at a foot above the ground. There are eight individuals measuring from half an inch to one and one-half inch in diameter, in addition to 13 small shoots

with a diameter of not more than one-fourth inch. Of the larger plants, only three have a diameter of one and one-half inches and a height of approximately twelve feet—one of these appears to be dead. The other shoots are vigorous and there was profuse bloom this year. Examination of the plants in early June, however, revealed that no fruits were developing.¹

This clump is, I am sure, the one described by Dr. Nichols twenty-eight years ago. It seems to be in no danger of dying out and the number of plants may actually be increasing although all are apparently root suckers. As Dr. Nichols noted, there is no indication of propagation by seeds from this clump.—JOHN R. REEDER, Osborn Botanical Laboratory, Yale University.

LITERATURE CITED

- FERNALD, M. L., 1950, Gray's Manual of Botany. 8 ed., *illus.* American Book Co.
HOPKINS, M. 1942, *Cercis* in North America. *RHODORA* 44: 193–211.
NICHOLS, G. E., 1923, *Cercis canadensis* in Connecticut. *RHODORA* 25: 203–204.
-

CORRELL'S NATIVE ORCHIDS OF NORTH AMERICA NORTH OF MEXICO.¹—No family of North American flowering plants has been more popular among amateur botanists than the Orchidaceae, and none of similar size (only about 150 species) can count in its literature so many independently published books, among the best known of which are Baldwin's *Orchids of New England*, Gibson's *Our Native Orchids*, Morris and Eames' *Our Wild Orchids*, and Niles' *Bog-trotting for Orchids*. In the world at large, where the orchids vie with the Compositae for the distinction of being the largest family of plants, they have long been a favorite among amateurs and professionals alike, and some of the iconographies of orchids are among the largest and most pretentious works in the whole field of botany. In this country there was no specialist in Orchidaceae until about the year 1899, when the late Oakes Ames, acting on the suggestion of N. L. Britton, took up the study of the family to which he was to devote the last half-century of his life. Provided with ample means and aided by a wife of exceptional artistic ability, he was able to build up a great orchid herbarium, to produce a long series of beautifully illustrated publications, and to surround himself with capable assistants who not only helped in his immediate work but have continued the study of orchids after leaving his botanical establishment.

One of these former assistants of Professor Ames, Dr. Donovan S. Correll, has now produced the work on North American orchids which is the subject of this notice. It is the first complete treatment of the orchids of the United States, and includes as well those of Canada, Alaska, and Greenland. Introductory notes on distribution, both regional and ecological, on general features

¹ Professor G. S. Torrey informs me that a specimen in the University of Connecticut Herbarium, collected in 1933 by E. H. Eames No. 11,521, has mature fruits with seeds.